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STATINTL

The People's Forum

Criticizes Costs Of Foreign Aid

To the Editor of The Gazette:

Everyone expects to pay legitimate and reasonable costs of running our government, but take a look at where some of your money went.

President Kennedy indicates it will take 131,361 more civilian employes to operate our nation by Jan. 30, 1963. Under Eisenhower few new civilian employes were added, but under Kennedy some time ago between 75,000 and 80,000 had already been added to the total on the payroll, bringing it, as of Jan. 30, 1962, to 2,407,029. Lots more votes, you know.

The sum of $64 million has just been authorized by Congress for the Peace Corps. When inaugurated, the President said, "Think not what your country can do for you, but rather what you can do for your country." We admire the dedication and service of the young people who are doing the difficult work in the Peace Corps, and they certainly are abiding by that worthy admonition. But can you say as much for the relatives and friends of the President in the Peace Corps administrative work?

In Malaya, for instance, where the corps has 36 persons serving, the director is paid $16,320 a year, and his deputy $14,665. Both get living allowances as well. Other overseas salaries of directors generally range from around $15,000 to $17,000 a year, plus liberal living allowances.

Payrolls of Two Agencies

Do you have any idea how many people it takes to administer the foreign aid programs, the United States Information Agency (USIA) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)? Sen. Stephen M. Young, Democrat of Ohio, says: "Over the past two years we have seen ample evidence to cause us to doubt the efficiency and good judgment of employes and officials of the CIA . . . The main function of many of these officials seems to be to send communications to each other."

As for USIA, Young says it has 8,000 on the payroll overseas and nearly 3,000 at home.

The Agency for International Development, which runs the foreign aid program, has more than 6,000 abroad and 2,200 here. The State Department's payroll shows 24,000 with more than 16,000 serving abroad.

Just think of all these people we pay to administer a program which has never served the purpose for which it was intended. The money just never seems to get to the people who are in dire need. But it does get to the heads of state, to buy luxuries with.

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